

Consideration of the dedication of Big Walnut Addition Nature Preserve in Putnam County

The proposed Nature Preserve addition is a 777.097 acre property comprised of several tracts, located in southwestern Putnam County, 1 mile east of Bainbridge. This nature preserve is an addition to the original 281.38 acre preserve and is part of a large block of high quality forested habitats along the Big Walnut Creek watershed, a designated National Natural Landmark. The stream provides documented water quality improvement as it passes through the preserve. This large block of forest in the Central Indiana agricultural area is helping to preserve rural values and quality of life in the area. The addition is part of a much larger conservation effort in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the Central Indiana Land Trust.

This Nature Preserve consists of a variety of forested habitats, including, floodplain, mesic-upland, dry-mesic upland, and virgin relict stands of hemlock. The topography has heavily dissected slopes and ravine forests along with the floodplains of Big Walnut Creek and its small tributaries. These community types along with their expected component flora and fauna contain many species that are area-sensitive forest interior plants and animals dependent upon large, unfragmented forest ecosystems.

Many noteworthy animal species are found in this Nature Preserve. The bird species of State Special Concern include the Black-and-white Warbler, the Worm-eating Warbler; and the Red-shouldered Hawk, while, the Cerulean Warbler is State Endangered. Other species of State Concern include the Salt-and-pepper Skipper, Northern Leopard Frog, American Badger, Wavyrayed Lampmussel, and Little Spectaclecase, also a mussel. Another State Rare species is the Arrowhead Spiketail Dragonfly.

Noteworthy plant species found in this Nature Preserve include the State Rare Wolf Bluegrass, and the Butternut tree, a Watch List species,

This tract is owned and managed by the Department of Natural Resources and the Division of Nature Preserves.

The Division of Nature Preserves recommends dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

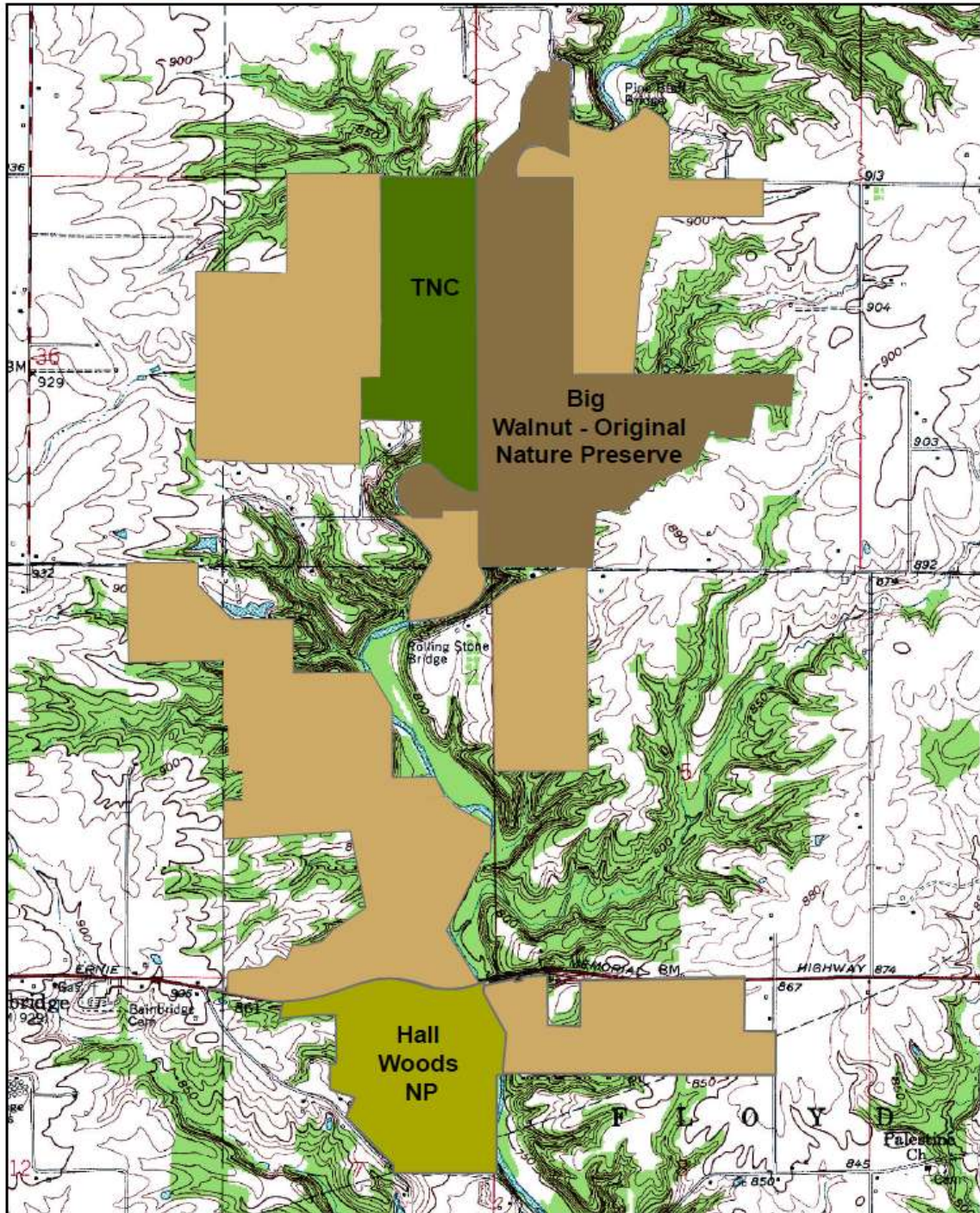
Attached is Nature Preserves exhibit A: map

Big Walnut Addition Nature Preserve



Exhibit A

County: Putnam
Size: 777.097 acres

USGS Map: 7.5 Quad Roachdale & North Salem
Ownership: DNR Nature Preserves



map created by R Wilson IDNR Nature Preserves 10.03.2012

-  Big Walnut Nature Preserve - Original
 Big Walnut Addition
 Hall Woods Nature Preserve
 Fortunes Woods - The Nature Conservancy

